

REMARKS

Claims 8-11 are pending in the present application. Claims 8 and 9 are amended by this amendment. No new matter is added by the amendments, which find support throughout the specification and figures. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has determined that all of the claims include allowable subject matter, and would therefore be allowed if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, which is discussed below.

Claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner asserts that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the terms “estimated microphone”, “estimated microphones”, and “estimated positions”. Additionally, the Examiner asserts that claim 8 at lines 3-7 is confusing. Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to respond to these rejections.

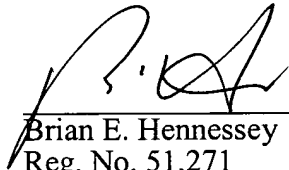
The Examiner also asserts that it is unclear how the synchronous adder of claim 8 aligns phases. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 as amended is definite, and direct the Examiner’s attention to the specification at page 32, lines 8-31, which discusses the function of the synchronous adder in detail. As disclosed in the specification, the synchronous adder includes delay units and an adder. The specification further details how output signals of the microphones are located at estimated positions, pulled in phase by the delay units, and then added by the adder. It is respectfully submitted that the claims as presented are definite, and therefore it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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